

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

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S E C R E T NICOSIA 1133

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: GR TU CY PFOR

SUBJ: CONVERSATION WITH CLERIDES

REF: NICOSIA 1118

1. SUMMARY: CLERIDES IS SCEPTICAL THAT AN EARLY RESUMPTION OF NEGOTIATION WILL BE POSSIBLE. GOC, HE ASSERTS, WILL CONTINUE INSIST UPON A LARGER ROLE FOR SYG THAN TURKEY WILLING TO ACCEPT. CLERIDES SAYS MAKARIOS HAS ESSENTIALLY WRITTEN OFF POSSIBILITY OF AN ACCEPTABLE SOLUTION AND WISHES CONCENTRATE GOVERNMENT'S EFFORTS ON REHABILITATING THAT PORTION OF ISLAND'S ECONOMY LEFT TO GREEK CYPRIOTS. CLERIDES CONFIDENT THAT NO GREEK CYPRIOT GROUP IS SERIOUSLY CONTEMPLATING GUERILLA/TERRORIST ACTIVITY AGAINST TURKISH ZONE, THE CONSEQUENCES BEING FULLY UNDERSTOOD. END SUMMARY.

2. I SAW CLERIDES MARCH 27 FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE HIS RETURN AFTER A MONTH'S ABSENCE IN NEW YORK.

3. REFERRING TO SC CYPRUS DEBATE, CLERIDES SAID HE HAD BEEN SATISFIED WITH POSITION OF USG. THERE MIGHT NOT HAVE BEEN FULL ACCORD BETWEEN US, BUT HE UNDERSTOOD IMPORTANCE FROM THE USG POINT OF VIEW OF ATTAINING A RESULT WHICH WOULD KEEP TURKEY IN SECRET

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THE NEGOTIATIONS. HE REGARDED HIS MEETING WITH SECRETARY AS

"VERY GOOD" AND HAD FORMED PLEASANT ASSOCIATIONS WITH BUFFUM AND SCHAUFLE, FOR BOTH OF WHOM HE HAD HIGH REGARD.

4. I EXPLAINED THAT SCHAUFLE WOULD BE ARRIVING IN CYPRUS LATER IN THE DAY FOR A 24-HOUR STAY ESSENTIALLY TO LOOK INTO CERTAIN ASPECTS OF EMBASSY OPERATIONS IN HIS FUTURE CAPACITY AS INSPECTOR GENERAL. I SAID I HAD NOT SOUGHT AN APPOINTMENT FOR HIM WITH CLERIDES IN AWARENESS THAT MAKARIOS BECOMES APPREHENSIVE IF NOT INCLUDED IN CALLS BY ANY SENIOR VISITOR. TO HAVE INCLUDED THE ARCHBISHOP WOULD HAVE ENTAILED A MATCHING CALL ON DENKTASH AND THE PRESS WOULD HAVE A TROUBLESOME FIELD DAY SPECULATING ABOUT A NEW DIPLOMATIC INITIATIVE. CLERIDES SAID HE UNDERSTOOD AND FULLY AGREED. HE HOPED THERE MIGHT BE OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE TELEPHONE CONTACT WITH SCHAUFLE.

5. ON FUTURE OF NEGOTIATIONS, CLERIDES HAD SEEN WECKMANN PREVIOUS AFTERNOON AS FORECAST REFTEL. CLERIDES SAID HE HAD ACCEPTED VIENNA AS VENUE. EITHER APRIL 10 OR 21 WERE ALL RIGHT AS A DATE TO BEGIN. QUESTION OF SYG'S ROLE, HOWEVER, REMAINED CRITICAL FOR GOC. HE HAD INFORMED WECKMANN THAT GOC COULD NOT ACCEPT ROLE LIMITED TO ONLY A DAY OR TWO FOR PURPOSE OF CONVENING THE NEW NEGOTIATION. SYG'S PARTICIPATION WOULD HAVE TO BE CLOSER TO THE 15 DAYS ORIGINALLY MENTIONED BY HIM WHEN HE HAD INFORMED PARTIES OF HIS AVAILABILITY FROM APRIL 21 TO MAY 5. CLERIDES TOLD ME HE WAS WELL AWARE THAT GOT WOULD RESIST THIS. HE PERSONALLY FELT THAT GIVEN PROBABLY DIFFICULTY OF RESOLVING THIS ISSUE, IF IT COULD BE RESOLVED AT ALL, HE DOUBTED THAT WE COULD LOOK TO NEGOTIATION RESUMING BEFORE APRIL 21 AT THE EARLIEST. AND RESUMPTION, AFTER ALL, WAS ONLY THE FIRST OBSTACLE. SUBSTANCE WOULD BE FAR MORE DIFFICULT. HE HAD BEEN INFORMED BY ATHENS THAT TURKS HAD SHOWN LITTLE GIVE DURING SECRETARY'S VISIT TO ANKARA AND IT WAS HIS OWN ASSESSMENT THAT TURKISH POSITION WAS ACTUALLY HARDENING WITH TIME. ON THE ISLAND, AT GOT'S INSTIGATION, TURKISH CYPRIOTS WERE PROCEEDING WITH A CONSTITUTION WHICH WOULD PREEMPT MOST CENTRAL GOVERNMENT POWERS. AFTER THEY HAD VOTED IT AND SUBSEQUENTLY HELD ELECTIONS, THEY WOULD PUT FORWARD THEIR OWN PROPOSAL ON WHAT MINISCULE AUTHORITY WAS LEFT FOR A CENTRAL GOVERNMENT AND SAY TO THE GREEKS "TAKE IT OR LEAVE IT". DESPITE EVERYTHING, CLERIDES STRESSED, HE BELIEVED GREEK CYPRIOT INTEREST LAY IN THE RAPID NEGOTIATION FOR WHICH HE

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WAS READY.

6. I ASKED ABOUT MAKARIOS' ATTITUDE, AS MUCH AS ANYTHING TO GET THE FLAVOR OF THEIR RELATIONSHIP AT THIS TIME. CLERIDES REPLIED THAT HE HAD SEEN ARCHBISHOP PREVIOUS EVENING TO BRIEF HIM ON CURRENT STATUS OF WECKMANN'S EFFORTS TO GET THE TALKS GOING. HE HAD NOT FOUND THE ARCHBISHOP MUCH INTERESTED. MAKARIOS HAD ESSENTIALLY CONCLUDED THAT A NEGOTIATED SOLUTION COULD NOT BE

REACHED AND WAS CONCENTRATING HIS EFFORTS ON PLANS TO HELP GREEK CYPRIOTS LIVE IN TERRITORY REMAINING TO THEM. FOR EXAMPLE, HE HAD SPENT MOST OF HIS LAST NIGHT'S MEETING WITH CLERIDES DISCUSSING CONSTRUCTION OF PERMANENT HOMES FOR THE APPROXIMATELY 10,000 REFUGEES LEFT IN TENT CAMPS. IN MAKARIOS' CONCEPTION, THESE WOULD BE DISPERSED INTO EXISTING TOWNS WHERE MAXIMUM EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY EXISTED OR COULD BE CREATED THROUGH INDUSTRIAL PROJECTS. ANTICIPATED COST OF THIS WOULD BE CYPRUS POUNDS 15 MILLION (\$43 MILLION).

7. ON THE SOVIET ASPECT, CLERIDES INFORMED ME THAT, PRESS SPECULATION TO THE CONTRARY, MAKARIOS IS DISINTERESTED IN GOING TO MOSCOW WITHOUT FIRM UNDERSTANDING ON SOME RESULT MORE TANGIBLE THAN WORDS. SOVIETS SEEM AS DISINTERESTED IN HAVING HIM. IN ONE FIELD, HOWEVER, RUSSIAN EMBASSY BEING VERY ACTIVE. THEY PUSHING SEVERAL PACKAGED INDUSTRIES FINANCED BY LONG-TERM SOFT LOANS.

8. I ASKED CLERIDES IF THERE WAS ANYTHING STIRRING AMONG GREEK CYPRIOTS FOR LAUNCHING GUERILLA OR TERRORIST ACTIVITIES AGAINST TURKS. CLERIDES SAID LYSSARIDES WAS MAKING IRRESPONSIBLE STATEMENTS ALONG THIS LINE, BUT HE HAD NO SERIOUS TAKERS. GREEK CYPRIOT LEADERS WERE ALL TOO WELL AWARE OF TURKISH REACTION. CLERIDES WAS EMPHATIC THAT NO MOVEMENT OR ORGANIZATION EXISTS. CRAWFORD

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